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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/695,551	10/24/2000	Roe Peterson	1009-04-01	2563

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FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP  
ROPES & GRAY LLP  
1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS FL C3  
NEW YORK, NY 10020-1105

EXAMINER

KYLE, CHARLES R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/695,551	Applicant(s) PETERSON, ROE	
	Examiner Charles Kyle	Art Unit 3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5-8,10,11,14,16-22,25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5-8,10,11,14,16-22,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

**Claims 8 and 22** are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The Claims recite the same language regarding a preprogrammed condition related to the passage of time between placement of bids.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10-11, 14, 16-19, 21-22 and 25-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0023038 *Fritsch et al* in view of US 6,813,612 *Rabenold et al* and further in view of *Public Notice, Federal Communications Commission, First Paging Service Spectrum Auction Scheduled for December 7, 1999 Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and other Auction Procedural Issues*, hereinafter, *FCC*.

**With respect to Claim 2**, see the discussion of Claim 5 and *Fritsch* discloses that a highest bid wins at Background of the Invention.

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**As to Claim 5**, *Fritsch* discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including in a method of conducting an online auction (Para. 3), the steps of:

- a) providing an auction web site system (Para. 20) including a merchandise database (Para. 26, lines 10-12) of information pertaining to auction lots to be sold (Para.14);
- b) with respect to an auction lot, using said web site system to conduct an auction in the following steps:
  - i) assigning an opening auction price (Para. 16, line 1) and at least one predetermined bid increment (Para. 16, lines 3-6) to said auction;
  - ii) displaying to a bidder the current auction price of said lot (Fig. 5, ele. 370) as well as said predetermined bid increments (Fig. 5, eles. 390 and 370; predetermined bid

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increment = Make this bid (\$45.00) -

Current Bid (\$44.00) = \$1.00)

- iii) inducing bidders to place bids by selecting from said plurality of predetermined bid increments, the amount of a bid being the current auction price plus the selected predetermined bid increment (Fig. 5, ele. 390), details of said bids being transmitted to and recorded in said web site system (Paras. 20-29);
- iv) upon occurrence of a revision event (Par. 16, lines 16-22), revising said predetermined bid increments and refreshing the display of said revised predetermined bid increments to bidders (Figs. 5 and 6, change in increment from \$1.00 to \$0.25);

- v) upon occurrence of an auction-closing event, accepting no further bids and determining the winning bidder based on bids having been stored in said Web site system<sup>9</sup>Fig. 12, para. 38), wherein said revision event comprises the detection of a preprogrammed condition by said web site system (para. 16).

*Fritsch* does not specifically disclose a feature of a plurality of predetermined bid increments from which an increment is selected thereby simultaneously transmitting details of a bid to a website system and recording the bid in the system. *Rabenold et al* discloses this limitation at Figs. 13B and 16, and Col. 13, lines 19-40, at least. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify *Fritsch* with the plural updating bid increments of *Rabenold* because this would provide a rapid means for a bidder to indicate and transmit a competitive bid to an auction system.

*Fritsch* does not specifically disclose that the revision event resulting in bid increment change comprises a preprogrammed condition related to passage of time between bids. *FCC* discloses this limitation at pages 5-6, bracketed text. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in that art at the time of the invention to modify *Fritsch* to include the condition related to passage of time between bids to modify bid increments disclosed by *FCC* because this

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would allow bid price improvement by using smaller, more palatable bid increments to increase bidder interest.

**With respect to Claim 7**, *Fritsch* discloses auction closing based on a preprogrammed condition (equality of bid and offer) at Fig. 12 and Para. 16, lines 12-14.

**With respect to Claims 8 and 22**, see the discussion of Claims 5 and 25 respectively.

**As to Claims 10 and 19**, *Fritsch* discloses recalculation of bid increments at Para. 16, lines 19-20.

**Concerning Claim 11**, *Fritsch* discloses lowering bid increments at Para. 16.

**As to Claims 14 and 17**, *Fritsch* discloses a bidder browser for auction information at Para. 21.

**As to Claim 16**, *Fritsch* discloses a bidder communicating with the web system from a bidder computer at Fig. 2 and Paras. 26 and 27.

**Concerning Claim 18**, *Fritsch* discloses manual revision of increments at Para. 16, lines 17-18.

**Concerning Claim 21**, see the discussions of Claims 7 and 25.

**As to Claim 25**, see the discussion of Claim 5. *Fritsch* further discloses a web based auction system connected to bidders at Fig. 2, a bid management system containing bid details at Paras. 12 and 26 and an increment setting system at Paras. 15-16.

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**As to Claim 26**, *Fritsch* discloses a medium for storing a computer program operative to perform the method at Paras. 19-30.

**Claims 6 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0023038 *Fritsch et al* and US 6,813,612 *Rabenold et al* in view of *Public Notice, Federal Communications Commission, First Paging Service Spectrum Auction Scheduled for December 7, 1999 Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and other Auction Procedural Issues*, hereinafter, *FCC* and further in view of US 6,230,147 *Alaia et al*.

**As to Claim 6**, *Fritsch* discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See the discussion of Claim 5. *Fritsch* does not specifically disclose manually closing an auction. *Alaia* discloses this limitation at Col. 9, lines 25-41. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify *Fritsch* with manual auction as disclosed by *Alaia* because this would allow auctioneers more control over the auction process.

**With respect to Claim 20**, see the discussion of Claims 25 and 6.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



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***Conclusion***

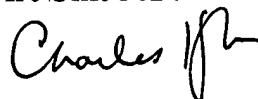
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Kyle whose telephone number is (571) 272-6746. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Crk  
January 5, 2006

**Primary Examiner**  
**Charles Kyle**  
**Art Unit 3624**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles" followed by a stylized flourish.